



## About Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping is a calling that demands both personal dedication and sacrifice. Service in the cause of peace offers real opportunities to help peoples and countries recover from conflict, rebuild their societies, and enjoy the benefits of peace.

United Nations peace operations offer opportunities to make a difference, both in the world and in your own life. Working and living conditions in the field vary. If you serve in a peacekeeping or political mission, or in a humanitarian field operation, the country or region that you work and live in is likely to be emerging from conflict or an emergency situation where the conditions are more arduous; the infrastructure is weak and electricity and clean water are often in short supply. In addition, most peacekeeping, political or humanitarian missions are categorized as “non-family” duty stations, and therefore family members are unable to join the staff member at the relevant location.



## Humanitarian Affairs

The Humanitarian Affairs Occupational Group is part of the Political, Peace and Security Job Network. There are over 70 internationally-recruited staff members in this job family working in multiple duty stations around the world. Together, they form a global network of humanitarian experts who provide critical support and guidance on a diverse range of humanitarian matters in liaison with key partners in the field. Staff who work in this field of expertise contribute to the substantive component of mission operations in particular and are critical to the effective delivery of the mission’s mandate.



## Nature of our Work

Humanitarian Affairs Officers ensure that the humanitarian situation and issues of concern on the ground are effectively and efficiently communicated to the senior mission leadership. Through appropriate exchange of information and coordination with the humanitarian community and providing support and guidance, Humanitarian Officers support the implementation of the mission’s mandate by facilitating humanitarian operations on the ground, typically in politically complex and often challenging circumstances.



## Working in the Field

United Nations peacekeeping and political missions have evolved over time to respond to different conflicts and changing political landscapes. Civilian peacekeepers work as administrators and engineers, police officers and legal experts, economists and electoral observers, specialists in civil affairs and gender, as well as experts in information technology and public information among other specialized functions. International positions typically have two categories, Professional and Higher and Field Service, which are distinguished by levels of responsibility as well as education and work experience requirements.



## Gender

The United Nations fosters gender equality and encourages applications from suitably qualified and experienced women across the full range of career opportunities particularly in the more “non-traditional” field careers such as Aviation, Logistics or Engineering.



## Education

Positions in this occupation generally require an advanced university degree (Master’s degree or equivalent) in political science, international relations, humanitarian and human rights law, public administration or related fields. A first-level university degree in combination with additional years of experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree. English and French are the working languages of the United Nations. All humanitarian-related positions require fluency in oral and written English. Knowledge of a second official UN language is an advantage.



## Related Careers

There are various career opportunities related to Humanitarian Affairs, such as the following:

- **Humanitarian Affairs Officer**
- **Protection Officer**



## Helpful Links

- [careers.un.org](https://careers.un.org)
- [inspira.un.org](https://inspira.un.org)
- [hr.un.org](https://hr.un.org)
- [point.un.org](https://point.un.org)

## Missions Directed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations\*



### UN Field Careers

Before you navigate through the existing job opportunities available online, we strongly advise that you read carefully the description of each current UN operation through the links to the mission website.

Please apply for the positions that best match your expertise, qualifications, experience and aspirations. The necessary education background/training, experience and skills to perform a specific job are explained in the qualification section of each vacancy announcement.

If you are interested in working for Peacekeeping Operations, please send your resume to [Outreachforpeace@un.org](mailto:Outreachforpeace@un.org) and write "WRUD4P" in the subject line of your email.

\* Source: Map No. 4259 Rev. 20(E), Cartographic Section, Department of Field Support, UNITED NATIONS, April 2014

\*\* political mission

Disclaimer: due to the mobile and dynamic nature of field careers, profilees may not necessarily feature in their current positions.

# What are you doing for peace?

Field Personnel Division,  
United Nations  
Department of Field Support

Working in peace operations  
gives my life meaning,  
especially when I see how my work  
benefits the communities

I am there to serve at  
the local level.

Present

2006

Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Team Leader, UNAMID, Khartoum

Head of Field Office, UNMIS-RCSO, Kadugli

2003

1999

Emergency Officer, UNICEF Ethiopia, Bahar Dar

Civil Affairs Officer, UNMIBH, Banja Luka

1998

1994

Geographical Observer, UNOHCI, Baghdad

Master's degree in Public Policy & Administration, Columbia University, New York



### Global Workforce



Over time, the United Nations has increased its presence in locations all over the world. There are over 130 field offices, which include peacekeeping and political missions and humanitarian field operations, and they play an essential role in identifying, highlighting, and responding to emerging challenges. While the work may vary greatly, the one unifying factor is the opportunity to make a difference, both in the world and in your own life. Together with its partners, the UN is tasked with a variety of responsibilities, such as providing and coordinating humanitarian assistance; promoting and protecting human rights; promoting the wise stewardship of the global environment; assisting countries to combat the supply of illicit drugs, crime and corruption and; providing information on the Organization and its activities in the various locations in which it operates.

Takako UGAYA  
Humanitarian  
Affairs Officer  
Duty Station:  
Khartoum, Sudan

